

Building Bridges Sermon Notes

Acts 8:26-40

Rev. Brian Bill

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Main Point: God loves to position His people to speak with people He has prepared.

Phases of Real Person Evangelism

1. Positioning – The reality of God’s timing is always _____.
 - “Go” means “to _____ and go forward” and implies movement.
 - Philip was willing to _____ a public meeting to help an individual find peace in a private place.
 - Philip obeyed (Acts 8:27).
 - Philip met an influential Ethiopian Eunuch.
 - Then, it was common to think of Ethiopia as the end of the earth.
 - How many opportunities do we miss because we haven’t been willing to take the first step?
2. Proximity – The reason for God’s timing is always _____ (Acts 8:29).
 - Step one is to rise and go. Step two is to “go over and _____.”
 - This is an imperative command which means to “cleave, _____, or cement oneself.”
 - Literally means, “Give yourself to the man; hang on _____ until your mission is accomplished.”
 - Philip ran to him. His obedience was immediate and _____.
 - He heard the man “_____ Isaiah the prophet.”
 - God wants sold-out Christ followers who take great pleasure in _____ - _____ obedience.
3. Proclamation – The result of God’s timing is always _____.
 - Philip asked him, “Do you understand what you are reading?”
 - Evangelism requires three skills.
 - _____ the gospel.
 - Defending the gospel.
 - Dialoging the gospel.
 - Questions to ask.
 - When an atheist asks, “*Why is there so much evil in the world?*” you could reply, “*It’s perplexing isn’t it? How does your atheism account for why terrible things happen?*”
 - When a classmate declares all religions to be the same, smile and simply ask, “*How do you know that?*”
 - When someone says churches are filled with hypocrites, I often respond this way, “*Why don’t you join us and then we’ll have one more?*”
 - When someone sarcastically asks, “*So I suppose you think all those sincere followers of other religions are going to hell?*” you could respond with, “*Do you believe in hell?*”
 - When you hear a classmate make a statement related to sexuality, you could say, “*That’s one way to think about it, but isn’t it possible God has something to say about marriage?*”
 - Over the years I’ve developed a go-to question which often leads to a deeper conversation, “*Where would you say you are on your spiritual journey?*”

- It's always good to have the questions from *Evangelism Explosion* ready to go: "If you were to die tonight, do you know for sure you'd go to heaven?" And, "When you die and are standing before God and He asks, 'Why should I let you into heaven?' what would you say?"
- Here's one more question which almost always gets a positive response. When someone is expressing some sadness or sorrow or I detect some worry, I'll often ask, "Can I pray for you right now?"
- The eunuch responds, "How can I, unless someone _____ me?"
 - "Guide" means "to bring _____."
- The eunuch recognized he needed _____ and invited Philip to join him.
- The eunuch asked who the passage was about.
- Philip "_____ his mouth" and shared the good news about Jesus.
 - "Opened his mouth" was used of taking the cover off a box of _____.
- Our gospel presentations must start where people are and then make sure we end with _____.
- The eunuch was baptized _____ after he believed.
- "The spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way _____."

Next Steps

1. Positioning.

- _____ through how God wants to position you for His purposes.
- Build _____ with your neighbors.
- See your home, workplace, or campus as a platform for _____.
- Look for and expect _____ intersections wherever you go.
- The next time you go out somewhere, simply _____, "God, who do you want me to talk to?"

2. Proximity.

- _____ one person whom God wants you to stick closely to until they get saved.

3. Proclamation.

- _____ to open your mouth and speak of the treasure of Christ the next time you have an opportunity.
- Ask God to give you the _____ to share the gospel.
- Consider God's call to full-time _____ ministry.